

[Transcript] Global News Podcast / Gaza is left without electricity

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Hello, I'm Oliver Conway. We're recording this at 13 hours GMT on Wednesday, the 11th of October.

Gaza's electricity goes off as the only power plant runs out of fuel.

Israel continues its bombardment of the Palestinian territory and masses troops following the Hamas attacks at the weekend.

In other news, Western Afghanistan has been hit by another strong earthquake the second in days.

Also in the podcast, NATO says it will take strong action if investigators find a gas pipeline in the Baltic was sabotaged and their designer flat leather sandals have had many nicknames over the years, but they've also managed to raise the hype around the brand with these partnerships.

The once uncool German Birkenstock brand that is now worth billions.

Just before we began recording this podcast, we got news from Gaza that

Maine's electricity had gone out there after the only power station in the Palestinian territory ran out of fuel. Israel has cut off electricity, fuel, water and food following the Hamas assault at the weekend. Air strikes have continued with 1,055 people dead, according to Palestinian officials. Doctors have warned that hospitals could soon run out of supplies.

Professor Hassan Abu-Sita is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon usually based in London.

He's been working in Gaza's main hospital over the past few days and he spoke to Martha Carney.

The hospital grounds have turned into a refugee camp. People are afraid and so they're bringing their families to stay in the compound of the hospital as a safe space and there's just a continuous stream of wounded. The hospital is at capacity beds and most of the other hospitals already in Gaza are at capacity. Gaza has around 2,200 to 2,500 beds and we've already had 4,500 wounded. What kind of casualties have you been seeing? So it's blast injuries, shrapnel injuries, masonry, fallen masonry, burns and as is the case with all the wars in Gaza,

there's such a high percentage of children that are wounded. I'm just about to go into the operating room with a what looks like a seven or eight year old child with severe facial injuries.

We have children with major burns. We have a teenager with 70% total body burns and usually around the third to 40% of the wounded in Gaza's wars are children.

How are you managing to work as a doctor? We know the issues around supplies, around electricity, around water. So the supplies are already running short because of the siege. I mean this is 15 years of siege and you feel it. You ask for basics, basic medication and they're either very short or they're completely run out and with regards to the electricity the generators are on to at least keep the operating rooms running. But if this lasts for longer than the next few days that the health system is already on its knees and is unable to cope and unless there's a humanitarian corridor to resupply the health system in Gaza the health system is going to collapse.

Professor Hassan Abu Sita and for the latest from Gaza we heard from our reporter there Rushdie Abu-Wiluf. The shelling from tanks along the border to the western part of Gaza wasn't intensified in the last half an hour or so. Also we understand that the Israeli navy was engaged in firing into the seaport the only harbour in Gaza destroying most part of the of this harbour. The non-stop shelling since last night started around eight o'clock in the evening last night with focusing the airstrikes in a neighborhood called Al Karama in the north of Gaza. It's northwest of Gaza where most of the damage overnight happened and where 30 people were killed. The overall death toll now is 1055 people and the number might be increased according to health ministry because there are many people who are in a very difficult very severe injuries in the area. The health ministry just issued a statement saying that they will stop all of non-essential medical treatment and they will focus only on the life-saving treatment because they believe that by doing this they can extend as much as possible the amount of fuel and the amount of medical staff medical needs to help those people. Talking about the humanitarian situation we are into the fifth day of this war and nothing is coming into Gaza. None from Egypt none from Israel electricity supplies was cut off internet supplies also was cut off and water Rushdie Abu Alouf in Gaza. The total number of Israelis and foreign nationals killed in southern Israel has now reached 1,200 as sites of massacres searched. Troops are massing near Gaza ahead of a possible invasion. The Israeli defense minister Yoav Galant told soldiers the next phase of their offensive would come from the ground. He said Hamas wanted a change and it will

get one. What was in Gaza will no longer be. Our international editor Jeremy Bowen interviewed Israeli Major General Itai Varouv, a commander of forces near the border. He asked him about the risk to Palestinian civilians. We are not terrorists. We are soldiers and we are Western country and we know and we crush the Hamas and we kill them all. I hope so but we will still human being until our last death. There's no sense in which you are suspending your obligations under the laws of war because of the extent of the emergency. We fight for our value and our culture all our life and you know you fought with value and you keep your value in the same time and I know that we will be very aggressive and very strong but we keep our moral and our value. We are Israeli, we are Jewish and you know war it's a very difficult theater, a lot of problem. People that stay in the battlefield are suffering a lot. You can see what's happening here but we come to kill the enemy, not the civilians in their bed. Israeli Major General Itai Varouv.

For more on the movements of Israeli troops I spoke to our Chief International Correspondent Leastousset who is in southern Israel just north of Gaza. We're on the main road which normally

would there would be a lot of traffic but it is a closed military zone. There's been a lot more military vehicles racing by, there's more armor that's been massing in the fields around here, some of it has been moving closer to the border. Just in my line of eyesight when I look at the junction where there's now only there's flashing lights of police cars, there's Israeli flags, the blue and white Israeli flags but also there's Israeli military vehicles and soldiers yeah they're all coming out as a military center very close to here. All of this are the signs of preparation by Israel. It's very hard to say when they believe that they have enough forces here, enough armor but also a plan as we've been saying on the BBC that for decades Israeli leaders including Benjamin Netanyahu have resisted this option going into Gaza where Israeli troops pulled out in 2005 not wanting to risk the lives of soldiers heading into a densely populated enclave where Hamas is no doubt prepared for this kind of an Israeli assault. It's fraught with risk but given what has happened in the past several days given the mood in Israel now it seems that that is really the only option that's on the table but it's a dangerous one. The military saying that following that shock attack on Saturday they've now reinforced all communities in the area I mean does it feel safer now? Well I think nobody feels safe now certainly not in Gaza where we can see the plumes of black smoke rising just beyond the the tree line we can there's Bet Anun which is one of the Gaza towns inside the the coastal strip even where we are there's a big green sign here pointing to Zikim which there's an umbrella and a beach if you place people used to go to to spend some leisure time in this kibbutz but it there were some Hamas fighters which were able to infiltrate that kibbutz yesterday even yesterday a day after Israel said it had regained control of the south but it has to admit it cannot seal this border it is very very porous that Hamas is wanting to prove he wants to be seen to prove that it can actually still come through now you're you're probably hearing the traffic white buses are going by they're used to transport troops and that's a flatbed military truck that's been bringing in supplies now military vehicle lights flashing the side of the road is lined with vehicles next to military centers reservists who've been called up come to these areas get out of their car leave the car by the side of the road pick up their gun and come down here to be part of the for now clearing this southern area and getting ready for the even bigger fight to come. Please do set in southern Israel. Meanwhile EU officials have warned Elon Musk that his social media site X formerly known as Twitter is being used to spread false information about the conflict. EU Commissioner Thierry Breton wrote to Mr Musk to say fake and

manipulated images and facts were circulating on X. Mr Musk said his firm had removed certain accounts. Mike Wendling is a US disinformation reporter. Among plenty of legitimate reporting online there's been a huge wave of fake news recycled videos from past conflicts made up headlines footage from video games and graphic propaganda. X is not alone among social networks and dealing with the deluge but since taking over last year Elon Musk dissolved an independent trust and safety council at the company and he slashed jobs at its safety team. In a post on X Elon Musk asked Mr Breton to list the alleged illegal content and wrote our policy is that everything is open source and transparent. Twitter's safety team says it's taken action on tens of thousands of more than 50 million posts about the conflict. Mike Wendling and as we record this podcast we're just getting some news from southern Israel a hospital there in the southern city of Ashkelon says it has been hit by a rocket fired from Gaza. Some other news now and since the 1970s the American musician Bernie Krauss has made over 5,000 hours of sound recordings of wildlife habitats around the world. The archive provides a way of documenting shifts in endangered

environments.

He estimates that more than half of the habitats have fallen silent because of human activity. Bernie Krauss spoke to Nicholas Standbridge about a new collaboration bringing to life his archive from the Central African Republic. Descending into darkness at 180 studios in London with sounds from the Senga Senga Forest in the Central African Republic captured by Louis Sarno produced by acoustic ecologist and author of the great animal orchestra Bernie Krauss. We had western lowland gorilla, African grey parrots, Hadada ibis, greater spotted monkey and guinea terraco. All brought flickering to life with hovering glowing lines of light an installation designed by united visual artists Matt Clark. On the floor is an array of small discrete speakers and that's where the sounds of crickets, frogs, birds call from and then there's also an outer array of speakers where you get wind, chainsaws in the distance, planes flying overhead and really it's an interplay between the man-made noises and forests. The structure is meant to represent a kind of monument to nature which we can orchestrate like a it's like a sonic rewilding. And as we hear the insects you can see green lights it's very soothing very calming as you hear the airplanes going over they turn white they become quite brittle to the eye actually to look at. And really it sort of demonstrates you know we can live in harmony through the noise we make but we can also disrupt nature. Matt and his team have created an algorithm that allows you and the audience to see the sound and its effect. Some of the recordings of the Bayaka tribe who actually sort of make a lot of noise music but it's in harmony with the natural surroundings. We learned orchestration, melody, rhythm all of these things from the sounds of the natural world when we lived much more closely so it's really an epic story of you know how these habitats are devastated by human endeavor and the rainforest has been compromised because of extraction of hardwoods habitats that no longer exist. The animals have been poached like the elephants for instance that whole herd that I had in the original recording is gone now.

In Louie's recordings over time from 1984 to the time that he died you can hear the sounds of the rainforest diminish. Are you still traveling around and gathering sound? Yes I am and I'm 85 years old I was out last night. I'm recording here in Sonoma which is north of San Francisco. The recordings of cricket sounds night sounds in an effort to record the entire year next comes the frogs after the rains then the birds come back in the spring time. Ronnie Kraus talking to Nicola Stambridge and still to come on the Global News podcast. Of course it's going to end sometime but everybody's in good faddle there's no particular rush. Head of the release of their new album we hear from Rolling Stone Keith Richards.

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Afghanistan has been hit by a second powerful earthquake in a matter of days.

The new 6.3 magnitude tremor struck early on Wednesday morning near the city of Harat.

The extent of the damage isn't clear. Many people were already sleeping out in the open after their homes were destroyed in Saturday's quake. I got the latest from Dawood Azami from the BBC Afghan Service. The latest earthquake happened in the same region which was hit on Saturday five

days ago and since then almost every day people are saying that there are aftershocks and today's aftershock was relatively stronger and it happened early in the morning when many people were sleeping

and since then since Saturday many people don't live in their houses in their bedrooms they sleep outside intense in the cold because they were scared that there might be another strong earthquake.

So for this reason we expect that there will be less casualties this time but the earthquake and the aftershocks have killed around 2,000 people. I mean there are different figures because the authorities and agencies still don't have a clear picture about the casualties.

Definitely it's more than 1,000 and the Taliban government officials have been telling us that the death toll is around 2,500 and maybe more than that but thousands of houses were damaged even this morning. Many more houses were destroyed or damaged because most of the

houses in that part of Afghanistan are made of mud bricks they don't have resistance when there is an earthquake and another point is that many people in that area are very poor they rely on farming and livestock and the earthquakes have killed much of their livestock as well. It has been arriving but it is slow and the Taliban government have been appealing from the international community and Afghan business persons to donate but the UN agencies have been active there and the Taliban government agencies are also operating they have found a special commission to help people the survivors and they've also pledged that they will build new houses for the people whose houses were destroyed.

On updates on a story we covered in our previous podcast a possible attack on a major European gas pipeline NATO has warned of a strong response if there is evidence that it was sabotaged. The Baltic connector running from Finland to Estonia was shut down on Sunday after suddenly losing pressure. NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg spoke ahead of a meeting of defence ministers. The important thing now is to establish what happened and how this could happen

if it is proven to be a deliberate attack on NATO critical infrastructure then this will be of course serious but it will also be met by a united and determined response from NATO.

Our Europe region editor Danny Abraham gave us this update on the investigation.

The authorities tracked down where the leak has taken place so that was the first thing the Estonian defence minister has said significant force was used in damaging the pipeline and he spoke about this mechanical impact or mechanical destruction so I think investigators are looking at theories of either accidental damage so perhaps something like a large ship's anchor coming down

on the pipeline or being dragged in a storm and breaking it that way or something deliberate

and the fear obviously is that it was something deliberate and sabotage. There is a Norwegian seismological institute that detected a seismic signal at a time that coincides with the events and also in a location actually quite close to Nord Stream gas pipelines that cross it.

It said that this could be a possible explosion something less than 100 kilograms of TNT in explosive yield so relatively small but researchers there also say that it could be something for example like gas bursting out of a ruptured gas pipeline at pressure so they're not saying it's an explosion. NATO is in touch with the authorities in both Finland and Estonia about their investigations

and how to respond. You mentioned Nord Stream and this of course isn't the first time that an undersea pipeline has been damaged. Yeah the Nord Stream pipelines which will go from Russia to Germany were severed in big explosions in September of last year three or four pipelines were damaged

two were actually exporting gas at the time and one was about to or the Russians hoped it was about to open but there is a difference the the signal that was detected in this incident was much smaller than the signals that were detected in the Nord Stream gas incidents which were clearly explosive.

A Europe region editor Danny Aberhardt. It's been described as the world's ugliest shoe but after a surge in popularity the German sandal maker Birkenstock is making its debut on the New York stock exchange. In less than three years the company has doubled in value and is now worth roughly eight point six billion dollars. It appears much of that success is down to a series of marketing deals that even featured in the Barbie movie but can Birkenstock maintain this momentum?

Marguerite Le Rondon is a fashion analyst at EuroMonitor International. I think Birkenstock have a very good value proposition they're 250 year old brown from Germany they have this reputation

of craftsmanship know-how and they're really famous for their designer flat leather sandals have had many nicknames over the years but they've also managed to raise the hype around the brand

with these partnerships you mentioned Barbie movie but they've also had collection with Valentino, Dior, Jill Sanders and many other designers so they really managed to elevate the brand desirability. I think it's important for them to retain their identity because consumers appreciate the consistency of their design of their quality and that's something key that the brand should retain in future. They will have to ensure that they strike these partnerships and collaborations regularly as they've done in the past but always finding an interesting designer or movie or celebrity to collaborate with and it's great to build a brand hype the engagement around the brand to tell the story they want to tell. Marguerite Le Rondon fashion analyst at EuroMonitor International. It is the Rolling Stones first album of original songs in nearly two decades ahead of the release of Hackney Diamonds guitarist Keith Richards who is almost 80 has told the BBC

he is ready to go back on the road he's been speaking to our music correspondent Mark Savage. My job is to keep that rhythm thing going and to be a reliable part of the rhythm section.

Solos come and go riffs last forever.

Your love affair with the guitar that's kind of the defining thing about your career but what's the fascination with it that keeps you coming back? The fascinating thing about it is that the more you play it the less you know it. And I don't know if this is a sensitive question but

obviously you've struggled a little bit with arthritis in your fingers has that changed the way you play? Finally enough I've no doubt it has but it's not from I don't have any pain it's a sort of benign version apparently. I think if I've slowed down a little bit it's probably due more to age than to any particular thing and also I found that interesting I was like well I can't quite do that anymore but the guitar will show me to well there's another way of doing this you know some finger will go one space different and say uh-uh there's a whole new door just opened here.

So we kept it as simple as possible and we actually cut this record primary to be a vinyl record you know with a cover and a plastic thing that you pull out and put on a turntable. Do you still listen to vinyl is that how you prefer to play your music?

Far the best sound if you really want to listen to a record properly I mean digital is toy town synthesizers now you have AI which is even more superficial and artificial.

Sweet Sound of Heaven is one of the songs that's really going to stand out it's huge blues gospel song and you've got Lady Gaga trading vocal hooks with Mick and also there's Stevie Wonder on there as well which is sort of the thing only happens when you record in LA. Guess who's dropped by? Lady Gaga is a piece of work I love working with her because she has a great attitude towards things and I'm a great voice and I always want to see her play off against me. There's so much energy to the music on this record it feels like it's designed to play live have you got plans to take it out on the road? Basically yeah that's the plan is next year take it on the road and if everybody's still standing. And I guess that brings me to the question that everybody asks you but will this ever end will the stones just keep going? My answer is I'm not Nostradamus of course it's going to end sometime but everybody's in good fettle there's no particular

rush you know I mean oh we're having great fun doing this you know and this is what we do. Keith Richards talking to Mark Savage

And that's all from us for now but the global news podcast will be back very soon this edition was mixed by Chris Lovelock and produced by Chantel Hartle our editors Karen Martin I'm Oliver Conway until next time goodbye. Oh wow oh my god I'm so excited thank you That's the sound of Casey getting a random act of helpfulness we just told him the helpful SoCal Honda dealers will be replacing his old manual wheelchair with a brand new power wheelchair

and we paid him for sharing that story on the radio and we can help you too with a great deal on a reliable award-winning Honda like the 2023 Accord. To find the helpful SoCal Honda dealer near you and to submit a random act of helpfulness for someone you know visit SoCalHondaDealers.com Hey BBC listeners you come to the global news podcast because you want to stay up to date on the best of international coverage. I'm Erica Cruz-Gavara from KQED's The Bay podcast where we bring you the best of local news around the Bay area. Every Monday Wednesday and Friday we bring you conversations with local journalists to give you the context and analysis that you need to make sense of what's going on in our region. You can find the Bay wherever you get your podcasts.